

## Special Recreation Permit General Information

Federal regulations require that commercial and competitive activities on public lands, such as river guides, tour operators, hunting and fishing guides, competition or large group events will need to obtain a Special Recreation Permit (SRP). The following information will help you through the permit process:

### Why do I need an SRP?

The objectives of the BLM recreation permitting system are to satisfy recreational demand within allowable use levels in an equitable, safe and enjoyable manner while minimizing adverse resource impacts and user conflicts.

Special Recreation Permits are issued for commercial recreational use of public lands and waters that are consistent with management plans and objectives for each area. Permits are used to manage visitor use, protect natural and cultural resources, and provide for commercial recreational uses. If a type of use exceeds the capacity for that area, BLM may use indirect management techniques such as, controlling access, environmental education, or other mitigating measures to resolve user conflicts. If more direct management is appropriate, then BLM may allocate or limit users participating in similar types of recreational activities, including denial of a permit.

### Types of SRPs

There are five types of recreational uses that require a permit:

1. *Commercial Use*: Commercial use is defined as recreational use of public lands and related waters for business or financial gain.

When any person, group, or organization makes or attempts to make a profit, advertises for participants, collects a fee, or receives money, as compensation from participants in recreational activities occurring on public lands, the use is considered commercial.

2. *Competitive Use*: Competitive use means any organized, sanctioned, or structured use, event or activity on public land in which two or more contestants compete and either of the following elements apply:
  - a. Participants register, enter, or complete an application for the event
  - b. A predetermined course or area is designated.
3. *Vending*: Vending permits are temporary, short-term, non-exclusive, revocable authorizations to sell goods or services on public lands in conjunction with a recreation activity. Typically vendors sell food, clothing, or services in connection with a special event or recreation activity.

4. *Special Use Area*: Permits may be required for individual (private, noncommercial) recreation use in Special Areas, such as the National Trails System, the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, the National Wilderness System, National Conservation Areas, Monuments and Recreation areas.
5. *Organized Group Activity and Event Use*: This permit is for noncommercial and noncompetitive group activities and recreation events, such as a large Scout camp-outs or a large family reunion. Permits may be required to reduce conflicts between large groups and other users.

## How to Get an SRP

The BLM manual states that applications must be received at least 180 days prior to beginning the proposed use. In most cases, new applications can be completed in 90 days. This allows BLM enough time to complete the environmental analysis for the permit process.

To obtain a Special Recreation Permit for the uses described above, the applicant must submit the following information:

1. Completed Special Recreation Permit application form (Form 2930-1);
2. Operations plan containing the following information:
  - detailed description of use and proposed activities (fishing, hunting, river floating, dog sledding, etc.);
  - type of access [road, plane, boat (motorized or nonmotorized), foot, horse, etc.];
  - description of campsites including locations and camp gear;
  - duration and dates of trips; and
  - number of clients.
3. Provide a USGS topographical or BLM map indicating the area(s) to be used and campsite locations;
4. Copy of current Federal, State or local licenses or certificates such as guiding, business, operators, etc.;
5. Copy of current insurance policy with the US Government listed as “additionally insured” (insurance limits are dependant on type of use).

BLM will determine if the proposed activity is consistent with the area's land-use plans and conduct any necessary environmental analysis and sometimes additional information may be requested. Application is either approved or denied.

If approved, the permit will have stipulations incorporated into it. Most are general stipulations that pertain to every permit. Some permits may have special stipulations pertaining to specific uses or areas.

**Permit Fees**

There is a minimum annual non-refundable fee due at the time of application. The minimum annual fee is \$90. Your estimated payment is the annual fee or 3% of the gross receipts, whichever is greater. Permit holders with clients may be eligible for deductions and discounts. Ask for an Optional User Fee Worksheet.

**Post-Use Reports**

A Post-Use Report is due thirty (30) days of the completion of the last event/trip of the year. It asks for:

- the number of participants, spectators and employees,
- fees charged per participant or spectator,
- gross for all receipts taken in,
- description of any problems,
- suggestions for administrating the permit program, and
- name, address and phone number of permittee.

For additional permit information, please contact us at:

Bureau of Land Management  
Glennallen Field Office  
P.O. Box 147  
Glennallen AK, 99588  
Ph#(907)822-3217  
Fax(907)822-3120